

Agency Information

AGENCY : HSCA
RECORD NUMBER : 180-10110-10002
RECORD SERIES : SECURITY CLASSIFIED TESTIMONY
AGENCY FILE NUMBER : 014672

Released under the John
F. Kennedy
Assassination Records
Collection Act of 1992
(44 USC 2107 Note).
Case#:NW 54756 Date:
10-31-2017

Document Information

ORIGINATOR : HSCA
FROM : [Restricted]
TO :

TITLE : EXECUTIVE SESSION

DATE : 03/22/1978
PAGES : 56

SUBJECTS :
CIA, METHODOLOGY
[Restricted]
OSWALD, LEE, PRE-RUSSIAN PERIOD, MILITARY SERVICE
CIA, STAFF

DOCUMENT TYPE : TRANSCRIPT
CLASSIFICATION : Unclassified
RESTRICTIONS : 3
CURRENT STATUS : Redact
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 01/01/2003

OPENING CRITERIA :

COMMENTS : Box 1.

C O N T E N T S

STATEMENT OF:

PAGE

James B. Wilcott,
A Former Employee of the Central
Intelligence Agency

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 1978

House of Representatives,

John F. Kennedy Subcommittee
of the Select Committee on
Assassinations,

Washington, D. C.

The subcommittee met at 10:20 a.m., pursuant to notice,
in room 2344 of the Rayburn Office Building, the Honorable
Richard Preyer (Chairman of the subcommittee), presiding.

Present: Representatives Preyer (presiding), Dodd and
Sawyer.

Also Present: Michael Goldsmith, Counsel, and Gary
Cornwell, Counsel.

Also Present: Elizabeth Berning, Chief Clerk, and
Charles Berk, Betsy Wolf and James Wolf.

Mr. Preyer. Thank you for being here today, and I will
call the subcommittee to order at this time.

I will ask if you will stand and be sworn.

Do you solemnly swear that the evidence you are about
to give before this subcommittee will be the truth, the
whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

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1 Mr. Wilcott. I do.

2 Mr. Preyer. I would like before we begin to read a
3 written statement concerning the subject of the investigation.

4 We are operating under House Resolution 222, which man-
5 dates the Committee to conduct a full and complete investi-
6 gation and study of the circumstances surrounding the assas-
7 sination and death of President John F. Kennedy, including
8 determining whether the existing laws of the United States
9 concerning the protection of the President and the investiga-
10 tory jurisdiction and capability of agencies and departments
11 are adequate in their provisions and enforcement; and whether
12 there was full disclosure of evidence and information among
13 agencies and department of the United States Government and
14 whether any evidence or information not in the possession of
15 an agency of department would have been of assistance in
16 investigating the assassination and why such information was
17 not provided or collected by that agency or department, and
18 to make recommendations to the House if the Select Committee
19 deems it appropriate for the amendment of existing legislation
20 or the enactment of new legislation.

21 That is what we are attempting to accomplish, which is
22 quite a big order.

23 We appreciate your being here today, Mr. Wilcott.

24 (Whereupon, a recess was taken while the members of the
25 Committee went to the floor of the House for a vote.)

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Mr. Preyer. We will come to order.

We will resume the session, and I will recognize Counsel to begin his questioning.

TESTIMONY OF JAMES B. WILCOTT, A FORMER EMPLOYEE OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY:

Mr. Goldsmith. For the record, would you please state your name and address and occupation?

Mr. Wilcott. My name is James B. Wilcott. My address is 2761 Atlantic Street, in Concord, and my occupation is electronic technician.

Mr. Goldsmith. Where is Concord located?

Mr. Wilcott. It is a little bit east of Oakland, California.

Mr. Goldsmith. Have you received a copy of the Committee's rules?

Mr. Wilcott. Yes.

Mr. Goldsmith. And a copy of the relevant House Resolutions?

Mr. Wilcott. Yes.

Mr. Goldsmith. And, Mr. Wilcott, is it true that you are a former employee with the CIA and that you are here today testifying voluntarily without a subpoena?

Mr. Wilcott. Yes.

Mr. Goldsmith. During what years did you work for the CIA?

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1 Mr. Wilcott. I worked from the years, May, of 1957 to,
2 April, of 1966.

3 Mr. Goldsmith. And in what general capacity did you
4 work with the CIA?

5 Mr. Wilcott. All in the finance -- in accounting all
6 of the time.

7 Mr. Goldsmith. How did you become employed with the CIA?

8 Mr. Wilcott. I was recruited from the school in Syracuse,
9 New York, where I was taking a course in accounting and busi-
10 ness administration.

11 Mr. Goldsmith. Very generally now, what were your
12 responsibilities as a finance employee with the agency?

13 Mr. Wilcott. Well, from May of 1957 to January of 1960 --

14 Mr. Goldsmith -- excuse me, just answer the question.
15 very generally, without referring to anything right now, and
16 please describe generally what your responsibilities were as
17 a finance officer.

18 Mr. Wilcott. My responsibilities were primarily record
19 keeping and disbursing of funds.

20 Mr. Goldsmith. Mr. Wilcott, are you here with Counsel
21 today?

22 Mr. Wilcott. Yes, I am.

23 Mr. Goldsmith. Would your Counsel identify himself
24 for the recorder?

25 Mr. Schaap. My name is William Schaap, S - c - h - a -

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1 a - p (spelling), and I am an Attorney here in Washington.

2 I will give my card to the Committee.

3 Mr. Goldsmith. Mr. Wilcott, did I ask you to prepare
4 a list indicating the dates that you were employed with the
5 CIA and where you were stationed?

6 Mr. Wilcott. Yes, you did.

7 Mr. Goldsmith. Did you prepare such a list?

8 Mr. Wilcott. Yes, I did.

9 Mr. Goldsmith. Do you have that list with you today?

10 Mr. Wilcott. Yes, I do.

11 Mr. Goldsmith. Referring to that list, would you tell
12 the Committee where you were stationed during your period with
13 the CIA?

14 Mr. Wilcott. Certainly, from May of 1957 to January of
15 1960, I was in the pre-fab building on the Potomac in finance.
16 During the period, it was unvouchered funds, and my duties
17 were general accounting, and my rate in status was GS-5.

18 From about January of 1960 to about June of 1960, I
19 was transferred to Finance Field Payroll, also, in this same
20 building, on the Potomac. This was making payments and
21 keeping pay records.

22 From June of 1960 to June of 1964, I was stationed at
23 Tokyo Station, and my primary duty was finance and cash
24 disbursements. This was all cash payments and record keeping
25 for the station. And during that period, I had been promoted

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1 GS-7 and also gained a career status.

2 From June of 1964 to about December of 1964, I was at
3 Roseland. This was just prior to moving to Langley, in
4 finance, and my duties there were policing accounts, and
5 included auditing of special accounts.

6 From January of 1965 to about March of 1965, I was at
7 Langley in the same area, in finance, policing accounts and
8 auditing of special accounts, and I was promoted up to GS-9.

9 From April of 1965 to April of 1966, I was at Miami
10 Station in finance, and I was handling the staff payroll.
11 This was preparing and reconciling payrolls.

12 In April of 1966, I resigned from the CIA.

13 Mr. Goldsmith. I take it, from your testimony, that
14 in November of 1963, you were stationed in Tokyo, the Tokyo
15 Station, is that correct?

16 Mr. Wilcott. That is right.

17 Mr. Goldsmith. Drawing your attention to the period
18 immediately after the assassination of President Kennedy,
19 at that time, did you come across any information concerning
20 Lee Harvey Oswald's relationship with the CIA?

21 Mr. Wilcott. Yes, I did.

22 Mr. Goldsmith. And will you tell the Committee what that
23 relationship was?

24 Mr. Wilcott. Well, it was my understanding that Lee
25 Harvey Oswald was an employee of the agency and was an agent

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1 of the agency.

2 Mr. Goldsmith. What do you mean by the term "agent"?

3 Mr. Wilcott. That he was a regular employee, receiving
4 a full-time salary for agent work for doing CIA operational
5 work.

6 Mr. Goldsmith. How did this information concerning
7 Oswald first come to your attention?

8 Mr. Wilcott. The first time I heard about Oswald being
9 connected in any way with CIA was the day after the Kennedy
10 assassination.

11 Mr. Goldsmith. And how did that come to your attention?

12 Mr. Wilcott. Well, I was on day duty for the station.
13 It was a guard-type function at the station, which I worked
14 for overtime. There was a lot of excitement going on at the
15 station after the Kennedy assassination.

16 Towards the end of my tour of duty, I heard certain
17 things about Oswald somehow being connected with the agency,
18 and I didn't really believe this when I heard it, and I
19 thought it was absurd. Then, as time went on, I began to
20 hear more things in that line.

21 Mr. Goldsmith. I think we had better go over that one
22 more time.

23 When, exactly, was the very first time that you heard
24 or came across information that Oswald was an agent?

25 Mr. Wilcott. I heard references to it the day after

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1 the assassination.

2 Mr. Goldsmith. And who made these references to Oswald
3 being an agent of the CIA?

4 Mr. Wilcott. I can't remember the exact persons. There
5 was talk about it going on at the station, and several months
6 following at the station.

7 Mr. Goldsmith. How many people made this reference
8 to Oswald being an agent of the CIA?

9 Mr. Wilcott. At least -- there was at least six or
10 seven people, specifically, who said that they either knew
11 or believed Oswald to be an agent of the CIA.

12 Mr. Goldsmith. Was Jerry Fox one of the people that
13 made this allegation?

14 Mr. Wilcott. To the best of my recollection, yes.

15 Mr. Goldsmith. And who is Jerry Fox?

16 Mr. Wilcott. Jerry Fox was a Case Officer for his branch,
17 the Soviet Russia Branch, in the Tokyo Station, who purchased
18 information from the Soviets.

19 Mr. Goldsmith. Mr. Wilcott, did I ask you to prepare
20 a list of CIA Case Officers working at the Tokyo Station in
21 1963?

22 Mr. Wilcott. Yes, you did.

23 Mr. Goldsmith. Did you prepare such a list?

24 Mr. Wilcott. Yes, I did.

25 Mr. Goldsmith. Is that list complete and does it have

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1 every CIA Case Officer who worked in Tokyo in 1963?

2 Mr. Wilcott. Oh, no. It doesn't have every one. It
3 has every one that I can remember.

4 Mr. Goldsmith. Did you bring that list with you today?

5 Mr. Wilcott. Yes, I did.

6 Mr. Goldsmith. Were any of these people on your list
7 possible subjects who made references to Oswald being a CIA
8 agent?

9 Mr. Wilcott. Yes.

10 Mr. Goldsmith. Would you read the list to the Committee?

11 Mr. Wilcott. Yes.

12 Mr. Goldsmith. Only of Case Officers.

13 Ms. Berning. *Mr. Chairman,* ~~I think~~ *for* we ought to state ~~that~~ the record
14 ~~shows~~ that Mr. Sawyer is a member of the Kennedy Subcommittee.

15 Mr. Preyer. We will.

16 Mr. Goldsmith. Upon your memory and the list that your
17 brought with you today, will you tell the Committee the names
18 of the CIA Case Officers who you remember working in Tokyo
19 in 1963?

20 Mr. Wilcott. Yes. There was Glen Nelson, Japan Branch,
21 who had embassy cover.

22 Jerry Fox, SR Branch, Soviet Russia Branch --

23 Mr. Goldsmith. Excuse me, please proceed very slowly.

24 Mr. Wilcott. Jerry Fox, SR Branch; Reid Dennis, Chief
25 of Soviet Satellite Branch; and Bill Center, China Branch,

1 and he also had a cover.

2 John P. Horton, Political Section; John Ishi, Japan
3 Branch; and Chester Ito, Japan Branch; and Kan Takai, Japan
4 Branch; and Jim Delaney, China Branch; and Bob Rentner, SR
5 Branch -- and there is some question about that, the branch
6 he was with.

7 Larry Watanabi, Japan Branch, Senior Case Officer; and
8 Robert Hashima, deep commercial cover agent.

9 There was a person, Dave, who was a Deputy Chief.
10 Dave -- I can't remember his last name, Deputy Chief of the
11 China Branch, and then a person whose last name was Nakamora,
12 in the Japan Branch.

13 Mr. Goldsmith. Do you remember which of these individuals,
14 if any, made the specific allegation or reference that Oswald
15 was an agent?

16 Mr. Wilcott. It has been 15 years, and I can't remember
17 specifically who said what, but certainly I am sure that Jerry
18 Fox, for instance, had at least made some mention of it.

19 Mr. Goldsmith. At the time that this allegation first
20 came to your attention, did you discuss it with anyone?

21 Mr. Wilcott. Oh, yes. I discussed it with my friends
22 and the people that I was associating with socially.

23 Mr. Goldsmith. Who were your friends that you discussed
24 this with?

25 Mr. Wilcott. Bob Ojiri, George Breen, Ed Luck, and

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1 Pete Martin.

2 Mr. Goldsmith. Who was George Breen?

3 Mr. Wilcott. George Breen was a person in Registry,
4 who was my closest friend while I was in Tokyo.

5 Mr. Goldsmith. Was he a CIA employee?

6 Mr. Wilcott. Yes, he was.

7 Mr. Goldsmith. And would he corroborate your obser-
8 vation that Oswald was an agent?

9 Mr. Wilcott. I don't know.

10 Mr. Goldsmith. At the time that this allegation first
11 came to your attention, did you learn the name of Oswald's
12 Case Officer at the CIA?

13 Mr. Wilcott. No.

14 Mr. Goldsmith. Were there any other times during your
15 stay with the CIA at the Tokyo Station that you came across
16 information that Oswald had been a CIA agent?

17 Mr. Wilcott. Yes.

18 Mr. Goldsmith. When was that?

19 Mr. Wilcott. The specific incident was soon after the
20 Kennedy assassination, where an agent, a Case Officer -- I
21 am sure it was a Case Officer -- came up to my window to draw
22 money, and he specifically said in the conversation that
23 ensued, he specifically said, "Well, Jim, the money that I
24 drew the last couple of weeks ago or so was money," either
25 for the Oswald project or for Oswald.

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1 Mr. Goldsmith. Do you remember the name of this Case
2 Officer?

3 Mr. Wilcott. No, I don't.

4 Mr. Goldsmith. Do you remember when specifically
5 this conversation took place?

6 Mr. Wilcott. Not specifically, only generally.

7 Mr. Goldsmith. How many months after the assassination
8 was this?

9 Mr. Wilcott. I think it must have been two or three
10 months after the assassination.

11 Mr. Goldsmith. And do you remember where this conver-
12 sation took place?

13 Mr. Wilcott. It was right at my window, my disbursing
14 cage window.

15 Mr. Goldsmith. Did you discuss this information with
16 anyone?

17 Mr. Wilcott. Oh, yes.

18 Mr. Goldsmith. With whom?

19 Mr. Wilcott. Certainly with George Breen, Bob Ojiri,
20 the circle of social friends that we had.

21 Mr. Goldsmith. How do you spell Bob Ojiri's last name?

22 Mr. Wilcott. O - j - i - r - i (spelling).

23 Mr. Schaap. For the record, I have made a list of all
24 of these spellings of the names which have been mentioned,
25 which I will give to the stenographer so that he will have

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1 them correctly.

2 Mr. Goldsmith. Did this Case Officer tell you what
3 Oswald's cryptonym was?

4 Mr. Wilcott. Yes, he mentioned the cryptonym specifically
5 under which the money was drawn.

6 Mr. Goldsmith. And what did he tell you the cryptonym
7 was?

8 Mr. Wilcott. I cannot remember.

9 Mr. Goldsmith. What was your response to this revelation
10 as to what Oswald's cryptonym was? Did you write it down or
11 do anything?

12 Mr. Wilcott. No; I think that I looked through my
13 advance book -- and I had a book where the advances on projects
14 were run, and I leafed through them, and I must have at least
15 leafed through them to see if what he said was true.

16 Mr. Goldsmith. And are you saying then that you attempted
17 to investigate this allegation?

18 Mr. Wilcott. No, I am not saying that. It was more of
19 a casual kind of thing, to my way of thinking.

20 Mr. Goldsmith. Did you check your cash disbursement
21 files?

22 Mr. Wilcott. Not the files, no.

23 Mr. Goldsmith. I am not sure I am following, then, what
24 specifically you did check.

25 Mr. Wilcott. It was a book that I had. At the end of

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1 the day we would list all of the advances that were made in
2 an advance book. It was just a three-ring binder, and we
3 would list down the advances by cryptonym and the amounts
4 and then reconcile that with the daily disbursements.

5 Mr. Goldsmith. How long were these records maintained?

6 Mr. Wilcott. They were maintained on a thirty-day
7 basis, and then they were closed off at the end of the month.

8 Mr. Goldsmith. So, does that mean you were able to check
9 back only thirty days from the time that you were given this
10 information?

11 Mr. Wilcott. Yes.

12 Mr. Goldsmith. I realize this is testimony 15 years
13 after the fact. However, if you received this information
14 two or three months after the assassination, at a time that
15 Oswald was already dead and had been dead for two or three
16 months, what purpose would have been served by checking
17 records that were only 30 days old?

18 Do you follow the question?

19 Mr. Wilcott. No.

20 Mr. Goldsmith. Well, in other words, if you got the
21 information three months after the assassination, Oswald had
22 already been dead for three months, is that right?

23 Mr. Wilcott. Yes.

24 Mr. Goldsmith. Answer "yes" or "no" for the recorder.

25 Mr. Wilcott. Yes.

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1
2 Mr. Goldsmith. You testified that your records were
3 only kept for thirty days, is that correct?

4 Mr. Wilcott. Yes.

5 Mr. Goldsmith. Then, by checking your records, which
6 only went back thirty days, isn't it true that you wouldn't
7 have gotten any information concerning Oswald anyway because
8 Oswald had already been dead for one or two months?

9 Mr. Wilcott. That is true.

10 Mr. Goldsmith. So, then, really, no purpose would have
11 been served by checking those records?

12 Mr. Wilcott. That is right.

13 Mr. Goldsmith. And did you check any other records?

14 Mr. Wilcott. No.

15 Mr. Preyer. I understand this might be a good place
16 for us to break and go and vote, so that we will take another
17 recess for about ten minutes. I am sorry.

18 (Whereupon, a recess was taken while the members of
19 the Committee went to the floor of the House for a vote.)

20 Mr. Preyer. The Committee will resume.

21 Mr. Goldsmith. Mr. Wilcott, you indicated that after
22 receiving this information concerning Oswald's cryptonym, you
23 went back to check some files, is that correct?

24 Mr. Wilcott. Not really files; it was my book.

25 Mr. Goldsmith. Your book.

Mr. Wilcott. I flipped through it.

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1 Mr. Goldsmith. What is the name of the book?

2 Mr. Wilcott. It was my Request for Advance Book.

3 Mr. Goldsmith. And for purposes of clarification, now,
4 if Oswald was already dead at the time that you went to this
5 book, why did you go back to examine the book?

6 Mr. Wilcott. Well, I am sorry -- if Oswald was what?

7 Mr. Goldsmith. At the time you went to look at the
8 book, Oswald was already dead, is that correct?

9 Mr. Wilcott. That is right.

10 Mr. Goldsmith. Why did you go back to look at the
11 book?

12 Mr. Wilcott. Well, the payments that were made especially
13 to substations like Oswald's was operated -- it was a sub-
14 station of the Tokyo Station, and they had one in Hokkaido,
15 and they had one in Osaka -- and it may be six months or
16 even a year after the initial allocation that the final
17 accounting for those funds were submitted, and they would
18 operate out of revolving funds or out of their own personal
19 funds in many cases.

20 Mr. Goldsmith. So, is your testimony then that even
21 though Oswald was already dead at that time, the book might
22 have contained a reference to either Oswald or the Oswald
23 project and that that reference would have been to a period
24 six months or even a year earlier, is that correct?

25 Mr. Wilcott. That is correct.

1 Mr. Goldsmith. Mr. Wilcott, how long were these advance
2 books retained?

3 Mr. Wilcott. They were retained for approximately one
4 year by the finance office, approximately one to two years,
5 and were destroyed at the time of audit.

6 Mr. Goldsmith. So that they would be routinely destroyed
7 at the time of auditing?

8 Mr. Wilcott. Yes.

9 Mr. Goldsmith. Did you check any of the earlier books?

10 Mr. Wilcott. No, I didn't, as far as the Oswald crypto-
11 nym was concerned; no, I didn't.

12 Mr. Goldsmith. So basically, you checked only one of
13 the advance books, is that correct?

14 Mr. Wilcott. My current one that I had on my counter.

15 Mr. Goldsmith. And when you testified earlier that you
16 learned Oswald's cryptonym, by that do you mean that you
17 learned both Oswald's personal cryptonym and his project
18 cryptonym, or was it one of the two?

19 Mr. Wilcott. Well, it was just a cryptonym, and it
20 could refer to a person, or it could refer to something else,
21 and I would have no way of knowing what a cryptonym referred
22 to.

23 Mr. Goldsmith. So, when the officer told you -- strike
24 that.

25 So, when the Case Officer made reference to a cryptonym,

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1 you didn't know whether the cryptonym referred to Oswald
2 specifically or to a project in which Oswald had been involved,
3 is that correct?

4 Mr. Wilcott. Yes, sir.

5 Mr. Goldsmith. Mr. Wilcott, assuming that Oswald had
6 been employed as an agent by the CIA, would there have been
7 a reference to that fact in the CIA's cash disbursement files?

8 Mr. Wilcott. No.

9 Mr. Goldsmith. Why not?

10 Mr. Wilcott. Anything they had there would have --
11 sometimes they used as many as two or three different crypto-
12 nyms and they would have -- it all depended on how far they
13 wanted to isolate it from the original source, from the
14 original source as to where the project was run.

15 Mr. Goldsmith. But as a matter of routine, would the
16 CIA cash disbursement files refer to the cryptonym of either
17 the person or the project that is receiving funds?

18 Mr. Wilcott. Yes, I am sure somewhere.

19 Mr. Goldsmith. As a matter of routine, there would be
20 that reference? Do you believe that there was such a reference
21 to Oswald?

22 Yes, I do, and I believe there was such a reference.

23 Mr. Goldsmith. Well, if I understand your correctly,
24 then, you answer now was somewhat different from what you
25 testified earlier. And I will ask the question again, okay?

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1 Mr. Wilcott. Yes.

2 Mr. Goldsmith. Assuming that Oswald was an agent for
3 the CIA, would the agency's cash disbursement files have
4 referred to either Oswald or to his cryptonym?

5 Mr. Wilcott. Yes.

6 Mr. Goldsmith. And you have had access to the cash
7 disbursement files at the Tokyo Station?

8 Mr. Wilcott. Yes, for a limited period.

9 Mr. Goldsmith. Were you ever able to check those par-
10 ticular files?

11 Mr. Wilcott. I was able to, but I never did.

12 Mr. Goldsmith. So, you never checked the cash disburse-
13 ment files to see if any reference was made there to Oswald's
14 cryptonym, is that correct?

15 Mr. Wilcott. That is right. It was only my personal
16 files -- my internal files, prior to the end of the month.

17 Mr. Goldsmith. I understand.

18 How long were the Tokyo cash disbursement files or
19 records retained?

20 Mr. Wilcott. The details approximately two years. We
21 had accountings, or we had audits about every two years,
22 and then the files that I kept the requests for advances,
23 the details of the accountings that were done usually on a
24 monthly basis by the Tokyo Station Branches, would be destroyed
25 and then they would be -- and, in fact, I helped destroy them.

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1 Mr. Goldsmith. Are you saying, then, that the cash
2 disbursement files as a matter of routine would be periodically
3 estoryed?

4 Mr. Wilcott. Yes.

5 Mr. Goldsmith. Do you know whether CIA Headquarters would
6 have had either copies or originals of the cash disbursement
7 files?

8 Mr. Wilcott. They would have summaries of some sort.

9 Mr. Goldsmith. Would those summaries be destroyed as a
10 matter of routine, to your knowledge?

11 Mr. Wilcott. I really don't know.

12 Mr. Goldsmith. Were you ever able to find any indication
13 in any of the Tokyo Station's records that Oswald was, in
14 fact, a CIA agent?

15 Mr. Wilcott. Well, I never really looked.

16 Mr. Goldsmith. To your knowledge, would any records at
17 CIA Headquarters document that Oswald was a CIA agent?

18 Mr. Wilcott. I believe they would at one time. Whether
19 they are there now or not is hard to say.

20 Mr. Goldsmith. Do you have any personal knowledge that
21 any records at CIA Headquarters were ever destroyed?

22 Mr. Wilcott. No.

23 Mr. Goldsmith. Do you have any knowledge of any records
24 of the CIA at the Tokyo Station ever being destroyed out of
25 the ordinary course of business, not as a matter of routine?

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1 Mr. Wilcott. Yes.

2 Mr. Goldsmith. To your personal knowledge, CIA records
3 in Tokyo were destroyed?

4 Mr. Wilcott. Destroyed or changed.

5 Mr. Goldsmith. Could you give an example of that?

6 Mr. Wilcott. Yes. Let us say, for instance, that there
7 was a certain project going on, and the project was one that
8 became known that this project was being carried out --
9 and we call it "flaps," -- and the Case Officer in charge
10 might get word that somebody from headquarters was coming
11 to review the files to investigate the flap. Well, they
12 would go through the files and take out anything that they
13 thought was, say, indicative of how this flap occurred and
14 change the files.

15 For instance, in accounting, when we had our audits,
16 for instance, in most of the audits, he would call up some-
17 body -- let's say in China Branch -- and say "I know you
18 were having problems with this, would you like to look it
19 over before the auditors come?", and they might look it over
20 and retype the accounting for funds for their project and,
21 you know, make changes that they might think were in their
22 interest to do.

23 Mr. Goldsmith. Did you ever actually Xerox records
24 being destroyed or changed?

25 Mr. Wilcott. Yes, I did.

1 Mr. Goldsmith. And have you just described one of
2 those instances to us?

3 Mr. Wilcott. Yes.

4 Mr. Goldsmith. Mr. Wilcott, after leaving the Tokyo
5 Station, was there any other time when you came across any
6 information that indicated that Oswald was a CIA agent?

7 Mr. Wilcott. In conversation.

8 Mr. Goldsmith. Is the answer to that "yes"?

9 Mr. Wilcott. Yes.

10 Mr. Goldsmith. When did that occur?

11 Mr. Wilcott. From the time I left I talked at various
12 times, especially at parties and things like that, on social
13 occasions, with people at headquarters and with people at my
14 station, and we would converse about it and I used to say
15 things like, "What do you think about Oswald being connected
16 with the CIA?", and things like that.

17 Mr. Goldsmith. What was their response?

18 Mr. Wilcott. The response was, among quote a few people,
19 "Oh, well, I am sure he was."

20 Mr. Goldsmith. What were these people's names?

21 Mr. Wilcott. Well, George Breen, again, after we came
22 back from Tokyo, for instance, Dick Cummings was a person
23 that I knew before I had gone to Tokyo Station, and I met
24 with him, and I had dinner at his house with his wife and my
25 wife.

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1 Mr. Goldsmith. Just give us their names. Anyone else?

2 Mr. Wilcott. Not that I can recall.

3 Mr. Goldsmith. So, it is your testimony that, once your
4 left the Tokyo Station, people, both at headquarters, in
5 Langley, and at the Miami Station, made references to Oswald
6 being an agent, is that correct?

7 Mr. Wilcott. Yes, in a speculative manner.

8 Mr. Goldsmith. How many people have you spoken to that
9 said that Oswald was an agent of the CIA, to the best of
10 your recollection?

11 Mr. Schaap. Do you mean, how many people who were in,
12 the CIA or how many people in the general population?

13 Mr. Goldsmith. How many people in the CIA?

14 Mr. Wilcott. With any degree of certainty, other than
15 just speculation, I would say, six or seven, with some degree
16 of certainty.

17 Mr. Goldsmith. Do you have a personal opinion as to how
18 or for what purpose the CIA might have handled any projects
19 that involved Lee Harvey Oswald?

20 Mr. Wilcott. I am sorry?

21 Mr. Goldsmith. Do you have an opinion as to how the
22 CIA might have handled any projects involving Oswald and
23 for what purpose they might have used Oswald?

24 Mr. Wilcott. Yes, I have opinions.

25 Mr. Goldsmith. What is that opinion?



1 Mr. Wilcott. I believe that Oswald was a double agent,
2 was sent over to the Soviet Union to do intelligence work,
3 that the defection was phoney and it was set up and that
4 I believe that Marina Oswald was an agent that had been
5 recruited sometime before and was waiting their in Tokyo
6 for Lee Harvey Oswald.

7 Mr. Goldsmith. What is the basis for that opinion?

8 Mr. Wilcott. The basis for that is discussions that
9 I had with people at the Tokyo Station. Those are discussions
10 with people who gave the indication that there was every cer-
11 tainty that Oswald was an agent of CIA, runout of Osaka
12 Station, and that he was freed from Russia there in the
13 final courses in Russia and was trained by CIA people at
14 Atsugi.

15 Mr. Goldsmith. However, your testimony is that you
16 spoke to only six people as an estimate who indicated that
17 Oswald was a CIA agent -- and when I say six people, I mean
18 six CIA people, is that correct?

19 There were more people than that that believed it, and
20 six people with any degree of certainty that, you know, I
21 felt from what they were saying that they either had some
22 kind of substantial knowledge, or they had talked to somebody
23 who had some knowledge.

24 Mr. Goldsmith. How many people from the CIA did you
25 speak to who speculated that Oswald was an agent?

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1 Mr. Wilcott. Dozens, literally dozens.

2 Mr. Goldsmith. Do you have any explanation for why
3 none of these people have come forward with this story?

4 Mr. Wilcott. Yes.

5 Mr. Goldsmith. What is that explanation?

6 Mr. Wilcott. I have been trying to talk about this
7 thing and other things for the last ten years. I found it
8 very, very difficult to talk about these things that I think
9 ought to be talked about, very difficult. I talked to
10 reporters from various papers, and I talked to people in
11 other forms of meetings, and to me it is not surprising at
12 all.

13 I think, or I am certain, in my own mind, that, if
14 these people were approached that some of these people --

15 Mr. Goldsmith. Why has it been difficult?

16 Mr. Wilcott. Well, it has been difficult because people
17 don't want to get involved, and people were scared. I was
18 scared until the Carter Administration. I was really scared
19 to go to the Government and talk about any of these things.

20 Mr. Goldsmith. Did you bring your allegation to the
21 attention of the Warren Commission?

22 Mr. Wilcott. No, I didn't.

23 Mr. Goldsmith. And what is the reason for that?

24 Mr. Wilcott. I really didn't thin that the Warren
25 Commission was out to really get at the facts, and I am not

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1 saying that they purposely did anything, because I don't
2 know, and maybe they did or maybe they didn't, but certainly,
3 they didn't impress me as really trying to scrutinize the
4 evidence that there was. And their security that there is
5 in the Government didn't strike me as the kind of security
6 that would keep me from getting attacked in some way, if
7 someone wanted to do it.

8 Mr. Goldsmith. How did you know, in 1963, what type
9 of security precautions the Warren Commission had for con-
10 ducting its investigation?

11 Mr. Wilcott. I don't understand.

12 Mr. Goldsmith. You have indicated that you were not
13 inclined to go to the Warren Commission because you were con-
14 cerned about their security?

15 Mr. Wilcott. Yes.

16 Mr. Goldsmith. Did you have any basis for thinking that
17 their security was poor?

18 Mr. Wilcott. In 1963, I wasn't think that much about it.

19 Mr. Goldsmith. So, it never really came forward for you
20 to go to the Warren Commission, did it?

21 Mr. Wilcott. Not until after I left the agency.

22 Mr. Goldsmith. When was the first time that you alleged
23 in public that Oswald was a CIA agent.

24 Mr. Wilcott. In 1968.

25 Mr. Goldsmith. So, you first came across this



1 information in November of 1963, is that correct?

2 Mr. Wilcott. That is correct.

3 Mr. Goldsmith. And the first time you alleged in public
4 this allegation was in 1968?

5 Mr. Wilcott. That is correct.

6 Mr. Goldsmith. Why did you wait five years?

7 Mr. Wilcott. We thought every year, my wife and I and
8 the friends that we had -- we said, "Well, this is one thing
9 that they aren't going to keep a lid on." And we thought
10 every year it was going to be coming out, and especially
11 I didn't think that -- since what I had heard was all hearsay,
12 that I would never have seen Oswald or anything like that --
13 this is not the kind of thing that would be used for even
14 something like the Warren Commission, and they would have to
15 have something more substantial than that to go on, aside
16 from the fact that I never would have done it in the CIA,
17 being a very risky thing to do with the CIA.

18 Mr. Goldsmith. Is it fair to say that the CIA is an
19 operation that runs itself on a "need-to-know" basis?

20 Would you tell the Committee what the "need-to-know"
21 principle is?

22 Mr. Wilcott. It is based on the principle that only
23 those persons who are involved in a project or involved in an
24 operation -- and even things that would not seem to be at
25 all in any way secret -- only those people should know about

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1 it and nobody else should know about it, and that was a
2 "need-to-know" basis.

3 Mr. Goldsmith. If the agency, in fact, was run on the
4 "need-to-know" basis, how would you account for so many
5 people supposedly knowing that Oswald was an agent?

6 Mr. Wilcott. The "need-to-know" principle was not all
7 that we followed, and just about every one of the big projects
8 that the agency was involved in, information leaked out,
9 and we especially within the CIA knew about it, and someone
10 would go to a party and have a little bit too much to drink
11 and start saying things that they really shouldn't be saying
12 to keep in mind what the "need-to-know" principle was.

13 Mr. Goldsmith. Why would anyone have shared this par-
14 ticular information with you?

15 Mr. Wilcott. Especially after Kennedy's assassination,
16 there was a great deal of very, very serious discontent with
17 CIA, and the morale at the station had dropped considerably,
18 and we heard some very, very bitter denunciations of CIA
19 and the projects that they were undertaking.

20 Mr. Goldsmith. I am not sure that that is responsive.
21 Why would anyone share the information that Oswald was an
22 agent with you, Mr. Wilcott?

23 Mr. Wilcott. I don't know how to answer that.

24 Mr. Schaap. Excuse me.

25 (The witness conferred with his Counsel.)

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1 Mr. Goldsmith. Do you have anything to add in response
2 to that question?

3 Mr. Wilcott. Yes, I was on security duty, and on secur-
4 ity duty, agents were coming in and out of the station, and
5 I pulled a lot of security duty, three and four nights right
6 in a row, and pulled as much as 24 hours on weekends, and an
7 agent would come back from meeting with somebody and he would
8 be waiting for his wife to pick him up or would be waiting
9 for a call from one of the indigenous agents that he was
10 running and a lot of times conversations would be talked.
11 And I think that is why I probably heard a lot more things
12 than other people did, for instance, than my wife did,
13 because of that situation.

14 Mr. Goldsmith. Mr. Wilcott, when did you leave the
15 agency?

16 Mr. Wilcott. I left the agency in April of 1966 for the
17 Miami Station.

18 Mr. Goldsmith. I am sorry, I didn't hear.

19 Mr. Wilcott. -- to the Miami Station.

20 Mr. Goldsmith. And were you dismissed by the agency or
21 did you resign?

22 Mr. Wilcott. I resigned.

23 Mr. Goldsmith. To your knowledge, did the CIA ever
24 conduct an investigation into your allegation that Oswald
25 was an agent?

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1 Mr. Wilcott. Not that I know of.

2 Mr. Goldsmith. Did you ever bring your allegation
3 to the attention of anyone in the CIA?

4 Mr. Wilcott. No.

5 Mr. Goldsmith. Can you give the Committee the names of
6 any persons who might corroborate your allegation?

7 Mr. Wilcott. All of the people that we mentioned in
8 the case.

9 Mr. Goldsmith. And finally, as I said at the beginning,
10 is it fair to say that you are here voluntarily today?

11 Mr. Wilcott. Yes, it is.

12 Mr. Goldsmith. And you testified without any
13 reservation?

14 Mr. Wilcott. Yes.

15 Mr. Goldsmith. And your testimony has been truthful
16 and candid?

17 Mr. Wilcott. Yes.

18 Mr. Goldsmith. I have nothing further, Mr. Chairman.

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end ss

lh fls

1 Mr. Preyer. I will ask a few questions. Why this
2 information would come out to a CIA station in Tokyo rather
3 than some other part of the world is, I assume, because
4 Oswald was trained in Japan, according to your belief. He was
5 in the military service over there, and so you feel he was a
6 double agent who was trained while he was in the military by
7 the CIA, and you mentioned he was given a Russian course. And
8 do you know for a fact that he was given Russian courses?

9 Mr. Wilcott. No; I know for a fact, or I know from
10 hearsay, and I believe it to be true from the circumstances of
11 how this conversation came up and so on.

12 Mr. Preyer. Well, that is the other question that I want
13 to be very sure on. I think you are making some important
14 allegations here, and you have been very helpful in giving
15 some witnesses' names through which we might be able to cor-
16 roborate it, but I think it is very important that we know
17 clearly how much of this was cocktail party talk and how much
18 was shop talk and how much was speculation and rumor and how
19 much was hard fact.

20 You mentioned the day after the assassination you talked
21 to someone at the station about it. Did he say to you, "I
22 think Oswald was a CIA agent," or did that first person say to
23 you that he was a CIA agent? Can you recall whether the tone
24 of it was rumor or shop talk or was the tone of it that "this
25 is true"?

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lh 2
1 Mr. Wilcott. Well, sir, the day after the assassination
2 I don't think that there was any of that kind of talk. The
3 day after, perhaps, two or three weeks after, the kind of talk
4 was that CIA was somehow connected.

5 Mr. Preyer. That was shop talk, speculation, I gather;
6 people were saying that the CIA is somehow connected with it?

7 Mr. Wilcott. Well, I believed it to be a little more
8 than speculation, that the source at least of this kind of
9 talk was, I believe, to be something more serious than
10 speculation.

11 Mr. Preyer. It was your conclusion from that talk that
12 some of these people might have knowledge that he was a CIA
13 agent rather than that they were speculating about it?

14 Mr. Wilcott. Yes, sir.

15 Mr. Preyer. And you did mention the case officer who
16 came in and told you that the money he had drawn out a few
17 weeks earlier was drawn out for Oswald?

18 Mr. Wilcott. Yes, sir.

19 Mr. Preyer. He stated that as a fact and not that he
20 believed it was drawn out for Oswald or it could have been or
21 something like that?

22 Mr. Wilcott. It was stated as a fact -- Oswald or the
23 Oswald project.

24 Mr. Preyer. How many people were at the station in
25 Tokyo approximately?

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lh 3
1 Mr. Wilcott. I believe our full strength was around 200
2 to 250 and we never actually had that many, I don't think. It
3 was about 170, I think, was our actual roster was.

4 Mr. Preyer. And Miami, was that comparable in size?

5 Mr. Wilcott. No, sir; that was a smaller station.

6 Mr. Preyer. So that in Tokyo, you indicated, six or
7 seven people talked to you and were, as I understood it,
8 rather definite about the Oswald connection?

9 Mr. Wilcott. Yes, sir.

10 Mr. Preyer. And dozens of others talked to you in a
11 general, speculative manner?

12 Mr. Wilcott. Yes, sir.

13 Mr. Preyer. Why did you resign from the CIA?

14 Mr. Wilcott. My wife and I came to believe that what
15 CIA was doing couldn't be reconciled to basic principles of
16 democracy or basic principles of humanism.

17 Mr. Preyer. It had no relation to your performance?

18 Mr. Wilcott. No, sir; I think I had good performance
19 reviews right up to the time that I left.

20 Mr. Preyer. I believe you have written an article about
21 this, an unpublished article.

22 Mr. Wilcott. Yes.

23 Mr. Preyer. And have you made that available to us?

24 Mr. Wilcott. Yes, I have.

25 Mr. Preyer. Thank you. I have no further questions.

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1 Mr. Sawyer. Do you distinguish between an agent and a
2 paid informant or do you use those terms interchangeably?

3 Mr. Wilcott. Well, sir, I think of an agent as an actual
4 employee of the Agency; we called them indigenous agents in
5 Tokyo who were agents that were on a regular salary by the
6 case officer who was running an agent, and then there were a
7 lot of one-time informers or maybe one- or two- or three-time
8 informers that were paid like maybe \$50 or so to attend a
9 meeting of a political party or something of that nature.

10 Mr. Sawyer. When you refer to Oswald as an agent, you
11 are referring to the extent you have -- as an agent as opposed
12 to a paid informer, in effect?

13 Mr. Wilcott. Yes; it is my belief that he was a regular
14 agent and this was a regular project of the Agency to send
15 Oswald to the Soviet Union.

16 Mr. Sawyer. Now, did the Tokyo station have any juris-
17 diction over the Russian operation or within the Soviet Union?

18 Mr. Wilcott. Yes, sir. That was the SR branch which
19 had all of the projects having anything to do with the Soviet
20 Union.

21 Mr. Sawyer. It went through the Tokyo station?

22 Mr. Wilcott. Well, that was just those that were
23 assigned to Tokyo and those projects that were assigned to
24 Tokyo. Every station was divided up -- at least every class A
25 station was divided up into areas, where we would have a China

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1 branch, Korea branch and Japan branch and SR branch and SR
2 satellite.

3 Mr. Sawyer. I noticed in some of the information we are
4 provided you say that following your leaving the CIA in 1967
5 or thereabouts, for a period of some three years or so, you
6 were harassed by the CIA and the FBI and sabotaged, as I
7 recollect it.

8 Mr. Wilcott. Yes, sir; I believe that happened.

9 Mr. Sawyer. Could you tell us what those things
10 consisted of?

11 Mr. Wilcott. I think the most significant thing that can
12 be actually substantiated is the circumstances surrounding my
13 employment with the community renewal program in Utica, and I
14 was the finance analyst for the community renewal program in
15 Utica. One day Frank O'Connor, the director of the program,
16 called me into his office and he said that he had had a dis-
17 cussion with the public safety commissioner and that the pub-
18 lic safety commissioner told him that my phone was bugged,
19 that my house was under surveillance and that a Federal
20 indictment was coming down on me at any time, that he had
21 talked to the mayor and the mayor decided not to fire me but
22 asked me to sign a resignation form which he would date the
23 day previous to the date that the Federal indictment came
24 down.

25 Mr. Sawyer. Who told this to the community development

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1 people?

2 Mr. Wilcott. My boss, Frank O'Connor, said that this was
3 told him by the public safety commissioner and that the FBI
4 had told the public safety commissioner.

5 Mr. Sawyer. Who is the public safety commissioner?

6 Mr. Wilcott. I don't remember his name now offhand.

7 Mr. Sawyer. Was he in Utica?

8 Mr. Wilcott. Yes. The mayor, Mr. Sawyer, was Dominic
9 Casaro. He was the mayor at that time.


10 Mr. Sawyer. Were there any other instances of harass-
11 ment?

12 Mr. Wilcott. Yes, there were several other incidents
13 that I believe could possibly be somehow connected with CIA.

14 Mr. Sawyer. What were they?

15 Mr. Wilcott. Well, they were such incidents as the FBI
16 agent that was working with a group -- and this was an estab-
17 lished fact that this person was an FBI agent and that he was
18 working with the group that I was working with, an antiwar
19 group and, to my mind, there is a very great likelihood that
20 this person was there to neutralize me, as the CIA term went.

21 Mr. Sawyer. What did he do -- anything?



22 Mr. Wilcott. Well, I would get calls and they would say,
23 "We know all about you," shooting a machine gun into the
24 phone, and hang up, and I would get notes written in snow on
25 my windshield and I had slips of paper left under my

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1 windshield and this sort of thing.

2 Mr. Sawyer. What would they say?

3 Mr. Wilcott. They were extremely vulgar and I don't
4 think that I should give the full context of them.

5 Mr. Sawyer. What was the gist of them?

6 Mr. Wilcott. Well, it was "We all know all about you"
7 and signed "The Minutemen" or some very vulgar remarks and "We
8 know all about you" and signed "Minutemen."

9 Mr. Sawyer. What was the name of the FBI agent who you
10 think infiltrated this antiwar group?

11 Mr. Wilcott. Gordon Finch.

12 Mr. Sawyer. He was in Utica also?

13 Mr. Wilcott. Yes.

14 Mr. Sawyer. What were some other instances?

15 Mr. Wilcott. Well, my tires were slashed and damage done
16 to my car and I believe sugar poured in the gas tank, and
17 whether this was actually CIA or not I have no way of knowing,
18 and it could also have been just for harassment as a result of
19 antiwar activities but I think there is also a possibility
20 that it could have been attempts to intimidate me into
21 talking about the CIA.

22 Mr. Sawyer. Are there any others that you can specifi-
23 cally identify as coming from the CIA or FBI?

24 Mr. Wilcott. I don't confirm any of them except with
25 the community renewal program as coming from there and I am

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1 suspicious that many of the other things that happened may
2 have had as its source the CIA.

3 Mr. Sawyer. Well, what were your antiwar activities
4 that you refer to?

5 Mr. Wilcott. We had -- in Utica there was a group called
6 the Vietnam Educational Council, which was informed people,
7 formed to inform people as to what was going on in Vietnam,
8 and we didn't feel that there was coverage enough in the
9 media as to what was going on, and the purpose of the Vietnam
10 Educational Council was to inform people as to what was
11 going on.

12 I was on the executive committee along with doctors and
13 lawyers and some of the most respected people in the
14 community.

15 Mr. Sawyer. How long were you associated with that?

16 Mr. Wilcott. Approximately two years, sir.

17 Mr. Sawyer. Thank you. That is all I have.

18 Mr. Dodd. I have just a couple of questions. First of
19 all I apologize for having to run in and out during your tes-
20 timony and some of this you may have already covered; and, if
21 you have, then I will not proceed with it. But I was
22 intrigued -- and it may have been in the transcription but
23 you were in Tokyo as financial disbursement officer -- is it
24 your testimony that you were told by a case officer that you
25 had disbursed funds for an Oswald project?

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1 Mr. Wilcott. Yes, sir.

2 Mr. Dodd. Am I to believe by that that you were not
3 aware at the time you made the disbursement that it was, in
4 fact, an Oswald project?

5 Mr. Wilcott. That is correct, sir.

6 Mr. Dodd. It would have been a cryptonym and he was
7 telling you, you had, in fact, made a disbursement?

8 Mr. Wilcott. Yes, sir.

9 Mr. Dodd. And this would have been, now, shortly after
10 the assassination?

11 Mr. Wilcott. Yes, sir.

12 Mr. Dodd. Talking about hours afterwards or a day
13 afterwards?

14 Mr. Wilcott. It was at least a matter of weeks and
15 perhaps as much as three months after.

16 Mr. Dodd. After the assassination actually occurred?

17 Mr. Wilcott. Yes.

18 Mr. Dodd. When you were told all of this?

19 Mr. Wilcott. Yes.

20 Mr. Dodd. And it includes the information that Oswald
21 was an agent?

22 Mr. Wilcott. Yes, sir.

23 Mr. Dodd. Was he described as an agent to you or was he
24 described as an operative or a paid informant?

25 Mr. Wilcott. No, sir; he was described to me as an

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1 agent and I was led to believe, from the conversations, that
2 he was an agent.

3 Mr. Dodd. As a point of information, are people who
4 work within the Agency fairly careful in their language in
5 describing what the category of certain people are who work
6 for the Agency?

7 Mr. Wilcott. Generally so, I would say, at that time.

8 Mr. Dodd. And it is your clear recollection that he was
9 described as an agent?

10 Mr. Wilcott. Yes, sir.

11 Mr. Dodd. And the information given you occurred some-
12 time three months after the actual assassination. That would
13 have put it into 1964?

14 Mr. Wilcott. Yes, sir, early 1964.

15 Mr. Dodd. When did you leave to go back?

16 Mr. Wilcott. June of 1964.

17 Mr. Wilcott. So it was sometime between February and
18 June of 1964?

19 Mr. Wilcott. Or perhaps January.

20 Mr. Dodd. In 1964, of course, the Vietnam war was going
21 on and Lyndon Johnson was now President. And when did you
22 begin to develop attitudes of dissatisfaction with the Agency
23 and its reaction and attitudes toward what you described as
24 undemocratic principles and a lack of humanism?

25 Mr. Wilcott. Well, actually even prior to the Kennedy

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1 assassination, my wife and I both became disturbed about the
2 stories that we kept hearing about things, control of
3 newspapers and so on.

4 Mr. Dodd. How long had you been married by the way?

5 Mr. Wilcott. We were married in 1954, sir.

6 Mr. Dodd. And you and your wife both went to work for
7 the CIA about the same time?

8 Mr. Wilcott. Yes, sir.

9 Mr. Dodd. In 1957?

10 Mr. Wilcott. Yes, sir.

11 Mr. Dodd. Am I to presume that you told your wife of
12 the conversation you had with this case officer at the time
13 it occurred?

14 Mr. Wilcott. Yes, sir.

15 Mr. Dodd. And she was aware of it from 1964 up until
16 1968 --

17 Mr. Wilcott. Yes, sir.

18 Mr. Dodd. -- when you decided to release that
19 information?

20 Mr. Wilcott. Yes, sir.

21 Mr. Dodd. And your dissatisfaction with the Agency and
22 with the course of American government preceded the actual
23 assassination of President Kennedy?

24 Mr. Wilcott. Well, with the Agency, yes, sir.

25 Mr. Dodd. And this was a view shared by you and your

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1 wife --

2 Mr. Wilcott. Yes, sir.

3 Mr. Dodd. -- at that time?

4 Mr. Wilcott. Yes.

5 Mr. Dodd. Did anyone else at the Agency know of your
6 views at the Agency and did you communicate with other people
7 about your dissatisfaction?

8 Mr. Wilcott. Yes.

9 Mr. Dodd. Would you care to tell us any of the names of
10 people whom you communicated with?

11 Mr. Wilcott. Particularly George Breen and Bob Ojiri to
12 a lesser extent.

13 Mr. Dodd. I am a little confused, I suppose,

14 Mr. Wilcott. Did you vote for President Kennedy?

15 Mr. Wilcott. Yes, sir, I did.

16 Mr. Dodd. You liked him?

17 Mr. Wilcott. Very much.

18 Mr. Dodd. I am just a little confused, I guess, over
19 your reaction. Here, by your own testimony, you were sup-
20 portive of the President, and certainly the most significant
21 tragedy, I think, probably in the last 15 years or 20 years
22 was the assassination of President Kennedy, and you are told
23 by some who worked for the Agency that Oswald was a CIA agent
24 and you already were dissatisfied with the actions of the
25 Agency and you are told this in 1964 and yet it takes four

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1 years, or two years, after you had left the Agency, recognizing
2 the tremendous import and significance of that, and I am
3 terribly confused as to why you decided to keep that
4 information to yourself and to your wife.

5 Mr. Wilcott. I was afraid, quite frankly.

6 Mr. Dodd. You may have covered this as well, Mr. Chair-
7 man, and, if you have, I will drop the question. But you
8 apparently indicated that you feel there was a direct connec-
9 tion between the Bay of Pigs operation and the assassination
10 of the President. Did you cover this ground? Did you want
11 to do this or intend to proceed with that line of questioning?

12 Mr. Goldsmith. I did not intend to get into that area.

13 Mr. Dodd. Just one second, then.

14 Mr. Wilcott, maybe we can expedite this somewhat by ask-
15 ing you this: Do you have any first-hand knowledge or infor-
16 mation as to a link between the failed Bay of Pigs operation
17 and the assassination of John Fitzgerald Kennedy?

18 Mr. Wilcott. No, sir.

19 Mr. Dodd. I have no further questions.

20 Mr. Cornwell. In the conversations which you have
21 described occurring within a period of one, two or three
22 months after the assassination with other CIA employees and
23 officers, did they suggest in those conversations to you that
24 their employment, the CIA's employment, of Oswald had any
25 relation to the assassination or only that it related to the

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1 events you have already described -- namely, the training of
2 him in Atsugi in the Russian language and the sending of him
3 to Russia and using of him as a double agent and that sort of
4 thing?

5 Mr. Wilcott. I am sorry, sir; I lost the thread of your
6 question.

7 Mr. Cornwell. In the conversations you had with other
8 CIA employees, the six or seven persons who purported to have
9 good information about the use of Oswald as an agent, did any
10 of those people say anything to you which suggested that the
11 CIA had some role in the assassination of President Kennedy?

12 Mr. Wilcott. Yes, sir.

13 Mr. Cornwell. What did they say along those lines?

14 Mr. Wilcott. Along those lines they said things like,
15 well, that Oswald couldn't have pulled the trigger, that only
16 CIA could have set up such an elaborate project and there was
17 nobody with the kind of knowledge or information that could
18 have done this, and this was more in the speculative realm.

19 As far as what they actually said, they said they were
20 having trouble with Oswald and that there was dissatisfaction
21 with Oswald after he came back from the Soviet Union, and they
22 would say things like "Well, you know this was the way to get
23 rid of him -- to get him involved in this assassination thing
24 and put the blame on Cuba as a pretext for another invasion
25 or another attack against Cuba."

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1 That was the kind of things that people said. How much
2 exact knowledge they had it is impossible for me to say. I
3 believe it was more in a speculative realm.

4 Mr. Cornwell. At several points in your testimony you
5 have stated there were six or seven persons, and on each occa-
6 sion you raised the extent of their knowledge as "knew" or
7 "believed." Apart from the one officer who said to you that
8 you had paid monies with respect to Oswald's cryptonym, what
9 were the other six or seven persons' purported connection
10 with Oswald and the Agency's relation to him.

11 Mr. Wilcott. They never revealed that to me, sir, as
12 far as their relations with Oswald.

13 Mr. Cornwell. Do you have any knowledge, based upon
14 your tenure in Japan, as to who would have trained Oswald in
15 the Russian language if that occurred?

16 Mr. Wilcott. No, sir.

17 Mr. Preyer. Let me interrupt. I am afraid we are going
18 to have to leave to make this vote right now. I will be back
19 in about 10 minutes.

20 (Whereupon, a brief recess was taken.)

21 Mr. Preyer. The committee will resume. Did you have
22 further questions?

23 Mr. Cornwell. The cryptonym -- did you write it down at
24 any point?

25 Mr. Wilcott. I may have, sir, and I can't remember

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1 exactly for sure. It seems to me that I recall jotting it on
2 a little pad that I had at my gate, and I did that with cryp-
3 tonyms from time to time for something -- we would want to
4 check back into their accounting for something.

5 Mr. Cornwell. Is there any chance that that record still
6 exists?

7 Mr. Wilcott. I doubt it, sir.

8 Mr. Cornwell. Your best memory is, you wrote it on a
9 note pad, is that correct?

10 Mr. Wilcott. That is true, sir.

11 Mr. Cornwell. What routinely was done with such note
12 pads?

13 Mr. Wilcott. Usually I threw them away at the end of
14 the day or once in a while I would put it in -- I had a
15 little folder where I kept personal things and it is possible
16 I could have put it in there, but certainly it would have been
17 destroyed when I left.

18 Mr. Cornwell. Do you recall whether or not you used that
19 in the process of looking through the 30-day book you
20 described?

21 Mr. Wilcott. I can't remember, sir.

22 Mr. Cornwell. It was not normally part of your duties
23 or the scope of the knowledge that you routinely acquired on
24 your job, as I understand it, for you to know what the
25 cryptonyms meant; is that correct?

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1 Mr. Wilcott. That is correct, sir.

2 Mr. Cornwell. However, I take it from the fact that, as
3 you describe it, it wasn't always applied, that occasionally
4 you did learn something about the identities of the persons
5 or projects that the cryptonyms referred to; is that correct?

6 Mr. Wilcott. That is true.

7 Mr. Cornwell. When this cryptonym was given to you by
8 the officer, did any part of it ring any familiar note with
9 you? Did you recognize any part of it, the first two letters
10 or the last portions of it, as referring to any geographic
11 area or any type of activity or anything like that?

12 Mr. Wilcott. No, sir, not that I can recall.

13 Mr. Cornwell. Had you ever run into any similar
14 cryptonym?

15 Mr. Wilcott. Yes, sir.

16 Mr. Cornwell. In other words, that is, the first two
17 letters or the last ones would have been the same as this?

18 Mr. Wilcott. Yes, sir; it was a cryptonym that I was
19 familiar with, that it must have been at least two or three
20 occasions that I had remembered it and it did ring a bell,
21 yes.

22 Mr. Cornwell. Do you remember anything about it?

23 Mr. Wilcott. Not at this time. I can't remember what
24 it was.

25 Mr. Cornwell. All you can recall is that, when you

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1 heard it, that was not the first occasion on which you had
2 seen it or heard it?

3 Mr. Wilcott. That is correct, sir.

4 Mr. Cornwell. Why did you leave the CIA?

5 Mr. Wilcott. My wife and I both left the CIA because we
6 became convinced that what CIA was doing couldn't be recon-
7 ciled to basic principles of democracy or basic principles of
8 humanism.

9 Mr. Cornwell. Is that the only reason?

10 Mr. Wilcott. The principal reason --

11 Mr. Cornwell. Let me rephrase it. Was there any dispute
12 between you and the Agency?

13 Mr. Wilcott. No, sir.

14 Mr. Cornwell. Did they request that you leave?

15 Mr. Wilcott. No, sir, they did not.

16 Mr. Cornwell. Did any event cause any disagreement
17 between you and the Agency?

18 Mr. Wilcott. No, sir.

19 Mr. Cornwell. Had you done anything or said anything or
20 engaged in any activity which became of concern to them?

21 Mr. Wilcott. No, sir. I had been involved at one point
22 with a group, civil rights group, and they had investigated
23 it and said that there was no wrongdoing on my part as far as
24 this association with the civil rights group.

25 Mr. Cornwell. What group was it?

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1 Mr. Wilcott. This was SNIC, the Student Nonviolent
2 Coordinating Committee before they became a black power group.

3 Mr. Cornwell. What, if any, investigation did the Agency
4 do with respect to that?

5 Mr. Wilcott. They called me up to chief of security,
6 the agent security, and they interviewed me on the association
7 that I had had with the group, and then they gave me a poly-
8 graph -- in fact, two polygraphs -- concerning my association
9 with the group of people that I met with the group.

10 Mr. Cornwell. Did they tell you whether or not you
11 passed the polygraphs?

12 Mr. Wilcott. Yes, they did. They told me that I had
13 passed both of those.

14 Mr. Cornwell. It is your testimony, as I understand it,
15 the first time that you spoke about the Oswald agency matter
16 outside of the CIA was after you left the CIA; is that
17 correct?

18 Mr. Wilcott. That is true, sir.

19 Mr. Cornwell. On that occasion to whom did you speak?

20 Mr. Wilcott. When I first started speaking, both my
21 wife and I discussed it and we felt that we should be speak-
22 ing out about not only Oswald but some other things. The way
23 that we did this was to contact as many people all at once
24 and we figured this would be our best protection, that the
25 more people that knew about it, the more protection it would

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1 be for us.

2 Mr. Cornwell. What type of people were they?

3 Mr. Wilcott. Most of the people were involved in the
4 civil rights movement or in the antiwar movement in 1968.

5 Mr. Cornwell. How many of them were newspaper or maga-
6 zine reporters or involved in at least the news business ?

7 Mr. Wilcott. None initially. The first contact I had
8 with any reporter or any newspaper people or any media people
9 was with Glad Day Press.

10 Mr. Cornwell. What year was that?

11 Mr. Wilcott. That was late '68 or perhaps early 1969.

12 Mr. Cornwell. You had signed a secrecy oath while you
13 were employed with the Agency?

14 Mr. Wilcott. Yes, sir.

15 Mr. Cornwell. Did you -- at the time you made the deci-
16 sion to discuss outside of the Agency this matter, did you
17 focus on the secrecy oath problem?

18 Mr. Schaap. Mr. Chairman, I would like to interpose, I
19 guess, an objection, although I would like to make it more in
20 the nature of a request, that I have some problems in terms
21 of advising my client with respect to possibly self-
22 incrimination, that I would not advise him to go into ques-
23 tions of his specific knowledge of the oath and the
24 application to what he did other than the fact that he has
25 told you, which is a fact, that he did sign the oath; but to

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1 go into his mental processes as to whether he felt what he was
2 then doing related to the oath in a particular way, I would
3 request that those questions not be asked on the grounds that
4 they may violate either his First Amendment rights or his
5 Fifth Amendment rights, if that would be all right. If you
6 have something --

7 Mr. Cornwell. Perhaps I can rephrase the question and
8 get more pointedly what I need without running into the prob-
9 lem that you see.

10 Did you contact any CIA officer or employee with respect
11 to the secrecy oath and discuss with them whether or not you
12 should be permitted to discuss these matters outside of the
13 Agency?

14 Mr. Wilcott. No, sir, I did not.

15 Mr. Cornwell. To your knowledge, when was the first
16 point in time at which your extra-agency discussions on this
17 subject matter came to the attention of the Agency, if ever?

18 Mr. Wilcott. I have no idea, sir.

19 Mr. Cornwell. At what point in time did your discussions
20 outside of the Agency first become a matter of publication in
21 a newspaper or magazine or on television?

22 Mr. Wilcott. In December of 1975, in the little magazine
23 called The Pelican at the University of California, and an
24 interview was conducted by a reporter from that magazine.

25 Mr. Cornwell. And would that -- at least in part --

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1 would that interview have contained your résumé of the Oswald
2 agency matter, your statements about that matter?

3 Mr. Wilcott. Very briefly it did, yes, in what was
4 finally published.

5 Mr. Cornwell. ^{WAS} ~~That is,~~ that subject matter, your state-
6 ment on the Oswald agency matter, ~~be~~ printed or otherwise
7 publicized in a news publication, radio or TV or anything
8 like that on any other occasion?

9 Mr. Wilcott. Yes, sir.

10 Mr. Cornwell. When was that?

11 Mr. Wilcott. On two other occasions, I was on KPOO
12 Radio in San Francisco and I discussed in detail, in quite a
13 bit of detail, the speculations and also the incident of the
14 case officer contacting me at the window.

15 Mr. Cornwell. What year was that?

16 Mr. Wilcott. That was November of 1977.

17 Mr. Cornwell. Last November?

18 Mr. Wilcott. Yes.

19 Mr. Cornwell. On any other occasion?

20 Mr. Wilcott. Yes, sir; at Oakland Technical High
21 School, at the invitation of -- the social department asked
22 me if I wanted to speak and I said yes, and so I spoke to two
23 classes at Oakland Technical High School. This was about, I
24 believe -- about October of 1975.

25 Mr. Cornwell. On any other occasions?



1 Mr. Wilcott. Not publicly. I spoke to groups in their
2 homes and I spoke to groups in the Peace and Freedom Party and
3 I was with the Peace and Freedom Party for several years.

4 Mr. Cornwell. But your testimony or your statements on
5 the subject hadn't been made a matter of publicity on any
6 other occasion?

7 Mr. Wilcott. Not to my knowledge.

8 Mr. Cornwell. Has any representative of the Agency or
9 anyone who you believed might be a representative of the
10 Agency ever come to you and discussed these matters?

11 Mr. Wilcott. Not directly, no, sir.

12 Mr. Cornwell. I have no further questions.

13 Mr. Preyer. Under our committee rules, Mr. Wilcott, a
14 witness is entitled, at the conclusion of the questioning, to
15 make a five-minute statement if he wishes or to give a fuller
16 explanation of any of his answers; so that at this time we
17 make that five minutes available to you if you care to
18 elaborate or say anything further.

19 Mr. Wilcott. I don't really have anything and maybe I
20 would just like to say I think it is time we got this thing
21 cleared up; and I think, for the good of the country and for
22 the good of the people, I think it is really time that all of
23 the facts were brought out and the people really get the
24 facts.

25 Mr. Preyer. Thank you. We appreciate that, and if at

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1 any time you think of any further way in which your testimony
2 can be corroborated or the name of any other CIA man or any
3 record or anything of that sort that might be available, we
4 hope you will get in touch with us and let us know about it.

5 Mr. Wilcott. Surely, sir.

6 Mr. Preyer. Thank you very much and we appreciate you
7 and Mr. Schaap being with us today, and the hearing will stand
8 in recess.

9 (Whereupon, at 12:55 p.m. the subcommittee recessed.)
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